Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 02277 091629Z ACTION OES-07

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, MNUC, TECH, AU

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN-IRANIAN NUCLEAR NEGOTIATIONS

REF: VIENNA 1873

- 1. DURING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 22-28, AUSTRIAN NEGOTIATORS REPRESENTING THE COMMERCIAL MANAGEMENT OF THE AUSTRIAN NUCLEAR POWER PLANT (GKT) AND THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT HELD TALKS IN IRAN COVERING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE POSSIBILITY OF STORING AUSTRIAN SPENT FUEL ELEMENTS AND HIGH LEVEL NUCLEAR WASTE IN IRAN. ACCORDING TO STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS BY A DIRECTOR OF GKT, THE TALKS WERE FRUITFUL AND POINTED TO A DEFINITE POSSIBILITY THAT, AFTER MORE TALKS, AN ARRANGEMENT FOR STORAGE OF AUSTRIAN SPENT FUEL AND NUCLEAR WASTE IN IRAN CAN BE WORKED OUT.
- 2. THE SEPARATE TALKS IN IRAN CONDUCTED BY AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS LED TO THE SAME CONCLUSION ACCORDING TO A SENIOR GOA OFFICIAL INVOLVED IN NUCLEAR ENERGY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MATTERS, WHO TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT THE POSSIBILITIES FOR STORAGE IN IRAN WERE GOOD BUT THAT DETAILS HAVE NOT YET BEEN WORKED OUT. THE OFFICIAL SAID THAT BOTH AUSTRIA AND IRAN KNEW THAT U.S.G. APPROVAL WOULD BE NEEDED FOR ANY SHIPMENT OF U.S. ORIGIN FUEL FROM AUSTRIA TO IRAN. HE SAID, THAT WHILE THE COMMERCIAL MANAGEMENT OF GKT WAS ANXIOUS TO GET ON WITH DETAILED NEGOTIATIONS, THE GOA WAS

HESITANT BECAUSE OF GOA AWARENESS THAT U.S. APPROVAL MIGHT NOT BE GRANTED. GOA WOULD LIKE TO WAIT FOR SOME INDICATION FROM U.S.G. BEFORE MOVING ALONG IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH IRAN.

3. PARAGRAPH 1, LINE 1; CORRECTION: DATE SHOULD READ FEBRUARY 27 THROUGH MARCH 3. WOLF

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